Chairman's Report Annual Parish Meeting

We have had a busy year. We have met once every two weeks. There are items that we consider in our normal course of business such as Planning. As a Parish Council we are a designated consultee which means we provide a parish point of view to East Devon District Council. Sometimes we are overruled by Planning Policy but most of the time the final decision reflects the Parish Council point of view.

Our Meetings also involve both County Councillors and District Councillors attending once a month. This is a useful forum for discussing the impact that County and District policy will have on the parish. Our parish councillors also attend meetings with outside bodies such as the Exmouth Police Local Action Group, the Airport Consultative Committee and the Crealy Liaison Committee to report back on issues that might affect the parish.

Beyond this we look to undertake projects that will benefit the parish. Examples of these have been:

- The installation of safety barriers in the Exton play area and the Woodbury recreation ground. The funding from this came from Devon County Council overseen by Cllr Richard Scott and Cllr Jeff Trail.

- Refurbishing all the benches in the parish.

- The installation of three defibrillators in the parish. This project was overseen by Cllr Geoff Jung.

- Working with the Royal British Legion to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1 and installing a memorial bench as well as a tree in memory of our 38 Fallen.

- Instigating a new grass cutting contract throughout the parish.

- Most importantly, turning the Parish Office into Santa's workshop for Christmas.

- One project we did not foresee was the repair of the wall at Gulliford Cemetery. The wall fell down in November and is the joint responsibility of Woodbury Parish Council and Lympstone Parish Council. The repair work could not take place until early spring as lime mortar does not set in the Winter but work is now well underway.

- Beyond this the Gulliford Joint Committee and Friends of Gulliford are looking to secure Lottery funding to undertake the complete refurbishment of the cemetery. We are very grateful for their efforts.

For next year our projects will include:

- Renovating the existing Woodbury bus stop – this is now work in progress.

- Working with Devon Transport to install a new wooden bus shelter on the opposite side of the Arch.

- Improving the trampoline area in Exton, which sees heavy usage.

- Installing a new slide in Woodbury Salterton, installation is scheduled to start this Thursday.

We have some other challenges ahead of us, areas we know are important to parishioners:

- Traffic and speeding. Parking. Potholes. Blocked drains. Weeds.

- We have had an important meeting this afternoon with Highways and County Councillors and have made progress on how we are going to make improvements.

We will need to work with the various authorities responsible for these to try and make improvements.

Finally, I am pleased to report we start this year with a full complement of thirteen councillors. Many parish councils find it hard to attract people who will give up their time for the benefit of their parish.

I feel there is a huge amount of expertise around the table and we look forward to working for the benefit of the parish this year.